

DOGS DIG DIRT TO START CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LR ANIMAL VILLAGE

Dogs available for adoption at Little Rock Animal Services dug up dirt to mark the beginning of construction for the new \$1.7 million Animal Village. Joining the four-legged participants in the ceremony were two-legged community leaders including State Representative Pam Adcock, Vice Mayor Barbara Graves, City Director Joan Adcock, City Manager Bruce Moore, members of the Animal Services Advisory Board, Animal Services Staff, and other supporters.

"This is an exciting day for the animals of Little Rock and the citizens of Little Rock, too," stated Vice Mayor Barbara Graves. City Manager Bruce Moore noted that the current facility was built in 1960 next to the sanitation dump. While the facility has been upgraded since 1960, the building has limitations that prevent it from best meeting its expanded mission.

The new 7,663 square foot facility will be located on Kramer Street just west of South University Avenue. It will be adjacent to the First Tee facility. Designed by Stuck and Associates, it will contain expanded space for the animals under the care and supervision of Little Rock Animal Services.

The majority of the funding for the project is provided by Little Rock's 2004 Capital Bond program. According to Susie Smith, a member of the LR Project Progress Committee that oversees the bond program, "The bond monies have paid for the basic project."

Smith continued, "In order to further expand Animal Services' ability to move into education and other programming, additional funding has been raised by the Animal Services Advisory Board through fundraisers." At the ceremony, State Rep. Pam Adcock presented a check for \$75,000 from the State of Arkansas to go toward the construction cost.

Kaye Risser, current chair of the Animal Services Advisory Board, discussed plans for even more fundraising. "We want to keep the momentum going and provide an even more dynamic facility." While the Animal Services Advisory Board looks to the future, they are also celebrating the exciting present. In 2005, Animal Services adopted out 668 dogs and cats. The addition of the Mobile Adoption Unit in May 2005 has increased the opportunities for outreach and education.

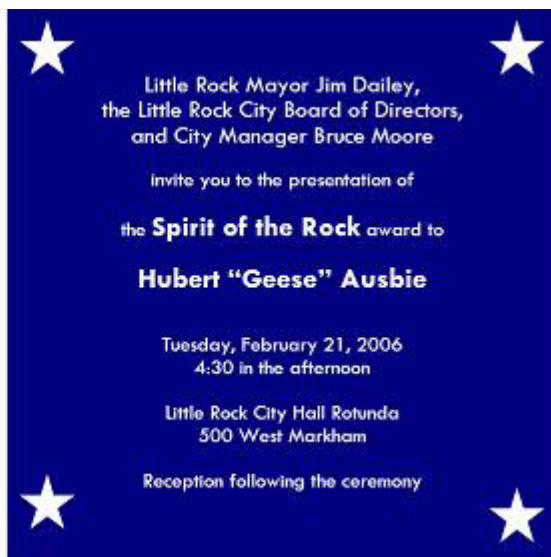
Construction on the Animal Village is expected to be completed in December 2006. "Just in time for people to adopt pets as Christmas or holiday gifts," remarked City Director Joan Adcock, a member of the Advisory Board.



Above
City Director Joan Adcock, KTHV Meteorologist Becky Ditchfield, and KTHV's Larry the Weather Cat participate in the "Ground-digging."

Below,
Baby, a Jack Russell Terrier mix, digs in the dirt for spectators to officially mark the beginning of the construction of the new \$1.7 million Animal Village to be located on Kramer Street.





Search for Next Parks & Recreation Director Narrowed to Three



Ken Smith



Truman Tolefree



Mark Webre

Three individuals are one step closer to being named the new Director for Little Rock Parks and Recreation. After interviewing eight candidates this month, City Manager Bruce Moore has announced three finalists.

In alphabetical order, the three are:

- Ken Smith--Executive Director, Audubon Arkansas
- Truman Tolefree--Director, Bureau of Recreation, Atlanta, GA, and former Assistant Director of Little Rock Parks & Recreation
- Mark Webre--Interim Director, Little Rock Parks and Recreation

The public will have the opportunity to meet the finalists at receptions from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the River Market, 400 President Clinton Avenue. The reception will be held on the 3rd floor in the Bill and Margaret Clark Multi-Purpose Room.

The schedule is:

Mark Webre—Thursday, February 16
Truman Tolefree – Wednesday, February 22
Ken Smith – Thursday, February 23

The new Director of Little Rock Parks and Recreation will succeed Bryan Day, who was named Little Rock's Assistant City Manager in 2005.

Public Works – Working for the Public

The motto for the Public Works Department is, "We Are Proud of Our Works," and apparently the citizens of Little Rock are as well.

In December, a local resident's sewer line was cut by a utility. Unaware what had happened, the citizen called Public Works after 5:00 pm and spoke to PW Director Steve Haralson. The next morning, Public Works staff was at the resident's house along with utility representatives and stayed there until the problem was fixed.

This high level of customer service goes on every day, but often citizens do not express their thanks to City Hall. This resident did. In recognition of their efforts, (below from top to bottom) Howell Brown, John Smith, and Kenny Wilcox of Public Works Operations received Customer Service Awards from Steve Haralson.



Director Hinton Honored at MLK Salute to Greatness

Ward 2 City Director Willie L. Hinton received the Dr. Josetta Wilkins Courage Award at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commission Salute to Greatness on January 13.

Joining Director Hinton in Hot Springs at this prestigious ceremony were his wife Blondell along with family, friends and members of the City Board of Directors and City Hall staff.



Dr. Josetta Wilkins presents Director Hinton with the award named in her honor.



Director Hinton addresses the crowd of over 800 and expresses his appreciation for the recognition.

EITC Saturday Was Super for Participants

Nearly 100 people took advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Super Saturday event at University Mall and in overflow locations. Volunteer certified tax assistance experts from the IRS and AARP will help people complete and file tax returns at no cost to taxpayers.

In addition, a tailgate party will be set up featuring additional free services and information on Individual Development Accounts, bank and credit union accounts, homebuyer programs, Medicaid, food stamps, and others.

Persons eligible for EITC could receive up to five months salary returned in a tax credit. This point was made by John Selig, Director of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services. He joined U.S. Congressman Vic Snyder, LR Mayor Jim Dailey, and representatives from many local community organizations in announcing plans for the Super Saturday EITC event.



A crowd of taxpayers and volunteers gathers on February 4 for the Super Saturday EITC event at University Mall.

The agencies aiding in Super Saturday include the City of Little Rock Department of Community Programs, the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, the Central Arkansas Development Council, ACORN, New Futures for Youth, The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Entergy, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and the Good Faith Fund.

Persons who missed Super Saturday, but who may be eligible should contact W. J. Monagle in Community Programs at 399-3420 for more information

Little Rock Marathon's Prize Money, Top 18 Sponsors Announced

The Little Rock Marathon announced that the marathon prize money structure has been expanded for 2006 offering participants a larger total prize purse.

The 4th Annual Little Rock Marathon, benefiting Little Rock Parks & Recreation, will take place on Sunday, March 5, 2006, and will reward winners with prize money totaling more than \$20,000, compared to \$17,000 in 2005.

"The Little Rock Marathon is now attracting elite athletes from around the world," said Greg Hatcher, chairman of the Little Rock Marathon Executive Committee. "The purse that we offer adds a dimension of excitement as the participants and spectators witness first had the excitement of world-class racing in the streets of Little Rock. I believe the increase in our prize purse, we will continue to bring exception athletes to here and reward our local running scene."

According to the new structure, prize money will be given to the first five marathoners, the first three marathoners from Pulaski County, and the first standard wheelchair/standard racing wheelchair racer to finish the race in both the men and women's divisions. "This will be the first year we offer cash to Pulaski County residents," said Bill Torrey, race director for the Little Rock Marathon. "We have great runners locally that run other races. Hopefully a little money will get them to run our race instead of a race up north."

"Another first for the race is cash purse for the fastest standard wheelchair racers in both the men's and women's divisions," said Torrey. "For a chair to qualify it must be a hand powered with no cranks, gears or chains. Handcycles will be allowed to participate in the race but will not be eligible for the prize money."

Also, the Little Rock Marathon announced the top sponsors of this year's race to be held Sunday March 5 in downtown Little Rock. The Little Rock Marathon and companion races are presented by the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Arkansas' largest newspaper.

Other major sponsors for the weekend include: Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau, Arkansas Parks & Tourism, Arkansas Specialty Orthopaedics, Glazer Distributor's of Arkansas, Alltel Corp., Arkansas Children's Hospital, Arvest Bank, Baptist Health, Clear Mountain Water, Diamond Bear Brewing Company, Fence World, Healthy Arkansas, Lemon Grass Design Studio, Magna 4 Printing, The Adolescent Center/Sports Medicine Plus at Arkansas Children's Hospital, The Hatcher Agency, and Twin City Bank.

"Participants enjoy the extraordinary experience on race weekend due to the loyal following of so many dedicated sponsors," said Greg Hatcher, chairman of the Little Rock Marathon. "The race has been a tremendous success every year and continues to grow due to our sponsors support."

"Although it takes a great deal of money to put on a quality event like the Little Rock Marathon," said Hatcher, "we are still able to provide funding for Little Rock Parks & Recreation programs and services, which benefit thousands of Arkansans each year." "We anticipate more than 8,000 participants and still need support from the community," said Hatcher.

Scenes from the 2005 LR Marathon



POLICE, FIRE PERSONNEL RECEIVE RECOGNITION

The Rotary Club of Little Rock (Club 99) hosted the 14th Annual Little Rock Police and Fire Department Awards on February 7. Police Officer of the Year went to Officer Greg Smith. Firefighter of the Year honors went to Firefighter Doug Coffman. Among other award recipients were:

Police Department

Chief Lawrence Johnson Leadership Award: Sergeant Yolanda McClendon
Commendation Bar: Officers Greg Smith and Mike Verkler; Detectives James Johnson and Aaron Manning
Commendation Unit Citation: Street Narcotics Unit
Lifesaving Award: Officers Joe Hill, Don Williams, William Denio, and Stan Harmon
Medal of Merit: Officer James Tankersley and K-9 Xanthro; Officer Russell Shippee and K-9 Jerry
Civilian of the Year: Jamie Smith
Rookie of the Year: Officer Jordan Neuffer
Community Service Award: Officer Henry Moore
Citizen's Achievement Award: KATV's Kate Sullivan

Fire Department

Performance Service Award: Firefighter/Engineer Jeff Porter, Capt. Dennis McCann, and Capt. Sandra Wesson
Community Service Ribbon: Firefighter/Engineers Pamela Richard and Julia Gregory; Captain James Henson
Community Service Unit Citation: Captain Ray Gunther, Firefighter/Engineer Charles Stroud, and Firefighter Robert Williams; Captain Al Emerson, Firefighter/Engineer Carl Carpenter, and Firefighter Wylie Simmons
Citizen Lifesaving Award: Eric Albardo, Barry Cudd, and Greg Deaton
Meritorious Service Medal: Captain James E. Williams
Medal of Bravery: Firefighter Wylie Simmons and Firefighter Doug Coffman

LR Police Officer Greg Smith and Chief Stuart Thomas. Smith was named Police Officer of the Year for efforts in resolving four felony cases in an unprecedented amount of time.



LR Firefighter Doug Coffman receives his "Firefighter of the Year" plaque from a Fire Dept. robot. He was lauded for his efforts to rescue a victim from a fiery motor vehicle accident.



PD Rookie Honored by Rotary, Civitan

Two days after being recognized by the Rotary Club, Officer Jordan Neuffer received the Noel Don McGuire Award as Rookie of the Year from the Little Rock Civitan Club.

The award is given in memory of Det. McGuire who was killed in the line of duty in 1980. He had been the top graduate of the May 1978 recruit class.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
FEBRUARY 2006						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		4pm – City Board Agenda Session		4pm- Planning Commission 5:30pm -- Parks Director Finalist Reception – Webre		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
2pm – Central High Visitor Center Groundbreaking	Presidents Day CITY HALL CLOSED	4:30pm – Geese Ausbie Award 6pm – City Board Meeting	5:30 pm -- Parks Director Finalist Reception – Tolfree	5:30pm -- Parks Director Finalist Reception -- Smith		
26	27	28				
		4pm – City Board Agenda Session				
MARCH 2006						
			1	2	3	4
				4pm – Planning Commission	LR Marathon Health & Fitness Expo	LR Marathon Health & Fitness Expo
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
LITTLE ROCK MARATHON		6pm – City Board Meeting		1875 – Little Rock receives charter at City of First Class in Arkansas		

City of Little Rock Board of Directors

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Vice Mayor Barbara Graves
Director Joan Adcock
Director Brad Cazort
Director Willie Hinton
Director Stacy Hurst
Director Michael Keck
Director Dean Kumpuris
Director Johnnie Pugh
Director Genevieve Stewart
Director B J Wyrick

City Manager Bruce Moore
Assistant City Manager Bryan Day

City Attorney, Tom Carpenter
Community Programs Director, Dorothy Nayles
Finance Director, Bob Biles
Fire Chief, Rhoda Mae Kerr
Fleet Services Director, Wendell Jones
Housing & Neighborhood Programs Director, Andre Bernard
Human Resources Director, Don Flegal
Information Technology Director, Traci L. Morgan
Parks & Recreation Interim Director, Mark Webre
Planning & Development Director, Tony Bozynski
Police Chief, Stuart Thomas
Public Works Director, Steve Haralson
Zoo Director, Mike Blakely